Approved For Release 2003/07/01 : CIA-RDP80R01731R001300050009-8

25-7872

5-2225

TO: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Chairman, CIA Career Service Board LBK

SUBJECT: Staff Study "CIA Honor Awards Board"

1. PROBLEM: To create a series of internally controlled CIA honor awards, to supplement the National Security Medal and the Medal of Freedom, for presentation to employees of the Agency and others officially associated with the Agency whose performance warrants such tangible recognition of valuable services.

2. ASSUMPTIONS:

a. In furtherance of the U. S. intelligence effort some individuals perform outstanding acts of valor, achievement or service which cannot be appropriately recognized under present CIA procedures.

b. The opportunity for outstanding contribution is present at all levels and in all areas.

3. FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM:

a. Military and civilian agencies recognize by personal decoration outstanding valor, achievement and service.

b. The U. S. Government recognizes valor by awarding decorations of various levels reserved for that purpose only. Each of these decorations takes precedence over a decoration of comparable level awarded for achievement or service.

c. The effectiveness of such decorations depends to a large degree upon the standards under which they are awarded, as well as upon the recognition and appreciation accorded them.

d. This Agency, in contrast to other elements of the U. S. Government, lacks a system of internally controlled honor awards for presentation to deserving employees and others officially associated with the Agency.

5

STA

2011

2011

Approved For Release 2003/07/01 : CIA-RDP80R01731R001300050009-8

Approved For Release 2003/07/01 : CIA-RDP80R01731R001300050009-8

4. DISCUSSION:

a. It is proposed that a new National Security Council decoration reserved exclusively for valor, to be known as the National Security Cross, be established and that it be the senior decoration available in the field of intelligence relating to the national security. The present National Security Medal will remain the senior decoration for outstanding achievement or service in the field of intelligence relating to the national security. Three new CIA decorations would take precedence immediately after the medals of the National Security Council so that, including the Medal of Freedom, a range of six decorations would be available for CIA personnel. In order to present a comparison with established decorations of the Services, it is envisaged that these awards would rank as shown below:

National Security Cross (an exceptional award)	Distinguished Service Cross Navy Cross
National Security Medal (an exceptional award)	Distinguished Service Medal
CIA Medal for Valor (a highly selective award)	Silver Star
CIA Exceptional Service Medal (a highly selective award)	Legion of Merit
CIA Meritorious Service Medal (with Device for Valor) (a comparatively liberal award)	Bronze Star Medal
CIA Meritorious Service Medal (a comparatively liberal award)	Bronze Star Medal
Medal of Freedom (a comparatively liberal award) (used by CIA to recognize acts of merit performed overseas, particularly when a security connotation is present)	Bronze Star Medal

Approved For Release 2003/07/01 : CIA-RDP80R01731R001300050009-8

Approved For Release 2003/07/01 : CIA-RDP80R01731R001300050009-8

b. The three CIA medals would be awarded only when the following criteria are met:

(1) CIA Medal for Valor. The recipient must have distinguished himself by a voluntary act of heroism, or by a series of closely related acts, involving the acceptance of existing dangers with praiseworthy fortitude and exemplary courage.

(2) CIA Exceptional Service Medal. The recipient must have distinguished himself by performance of outstanding services or by achievement of a distinctively exceptional nature in a duty of responsibility, the results of which constitute a major contribution to the missions of the Central Intelligence Agency.

(3) CIA Meritorious Service Medal (with Device for Valor). The recipient must have distinguished himself by the voluntary acceptance of existing dangers with praiseworthy fortitude and exemplary courage.

(4) CIA Meritorious Service Medal. The recipient must have distinguished himself by performance of meritorious services or by achievement, in addition to the duties normally expected of him, requiring initiative and extra effort which have contributed to the accomplishment of the missions of the Central Intelligence Agency.

5. CONCLUSIONS:

a. The present CIA Honor Awards Program would be enriched by the establishment of the decorations referred to in paragraph 4 above.

b. Such awards should be made a matter of record and appropriate notice, and should be presented under circumstances suitable to the stature of the awards. Security considerations will determine the extent of publication.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS:

a. That, utilizing the authority of Executive Order No. 9817 of 31 December 1946, the CIA decorations proposed in paragraph 4 above (CIA Medal for Valor, CIA Exceptional Service Medal and CIA Meritorious Service Medal) be authorized by the Director of Central Intelligence.

Approved For Release 2003/07/01 : CIA-RDP80R01731R001300050009-8

Approved For Release 2003/07/01 : CIA-RDP80R01731R001300050009-8

b. That the CIA Honor Awards Board prepare recommendations for submission to the Director of Central Intelligence regarding the newly proposed National Security Cross referred to in paragraph 4 above.

c. That the CIA Honor Awards Board be made responsible for recommending designs, for establishing standards, for reviewing recommendations, and for transmitting to the Director a report of Board action in respect to each recommendation submitted for one of the decorations described above.

STAT d. That [redacted] be accordingly amended.

STAT

[redacted]
Chairman
CIA Honor Awards Board

CONCURRENCES:

Chairman, CIA Career Service Board	(See below)* Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Date:	Date: FEB 5 1958

ACTION BY APPROVING AUTHORITY:

APPROVED:

Director of Central Intelligence

Date:

Subject to following:

*Recommend approval except for the names of the CIA medals. Recommend the Awards Board make a strenuous effort to dream up names for final approval, which will not include "CIA" but might have some legendary relation to Intelligence, such as for example: "The Cross of the Scarlet Cord."

-4- C.P. Cabell

Approved For Release 2003/07/01 : CIA-RDP80R01731R001300050009-8

Approved For Release 2003/07/01 : CIA-RDP80R01731R001300050009-8

UNCLASSIFIED RESTRICTED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

(SENDER WILL CIRCLE CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM)

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO		INITIALS	DATE
1	General Counsel - 317 So. Bldg.		
2			
3			
4			
5			
FROM		INITIALS	DATE
1	Assistant to the Director	JMD	2/16/54
2			
3			

☐ APPROVAL	☐ INFORMATION	☐ SIGNATURE
☐ ACTION	☐ DIRECT REPLY	☐ RETURN
☐ COMMENT	☐ PREPARATION OF REPLY	☐ DISPATCH
☐ CONCURRENCE	☐ RECOMMENDATION	☐ FILE

25X1

Remarks: Will you please advise the DCI, via [redacted], as to your interpretation of Executive Order No. 9817, or any other authority, which authorizes the DCI to create, purchase, and award medals as proposed?

Approved For Release 2003/07/01 : CIA-RDP80R01731R001300050009-8

SECRET CONFIDENTIAL RESTRICTED UNCLASSIFIED

FORM NO. SEP 1947 30-4

16—68548-1 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE